

PETROLEUM POTENTIAL OF KALACHITTA- MARGALA HILLS RANGE AND ADJOINING PESHAWAR-HAZARA BASIN, PAKISTAN

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The Kalachitta-Margala Hill Range and adjoining Peshawar-Hazara Basin occur in the north of Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan and extend towards Kohat in the west. This area constitutes the north-western margin of the Indo-Pakistan Plate in the western Himalayas in Pakistan.

Thick sedimentary pile, reported oil seepages and proximity to hydrocarbon producing Potwar-Kohat Basin make it prospective for exploration. Complex structural style and nature of the presumed Main Boundary Thrust (MBT) of the central and eastern Himalaya is considered to have significant implications on hydrocarbon assessment of the area.

Geological investigations have revealed that the molasse sediments of the northern Potwar, at many places, are in normal stratigraphic contact with the underlying calcareous sediments of the Indo-Pakistan Plate. A major fault like MBT along the Kalachitta-Margala Hills Range - the frontal part of the Hazara fold belt, could not be confirmed. These factors coupled with the occurrence of oil seepages suggest likely generation, migration and accumulation of hydrocarbon in the Kalachitta-Margala Hills Range and adjoining Peshawar- Hazara Basins.